



TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET SESSION OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
April 19, 2010

A special public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was convened and called to order by Chair Sharon Dennis at 5:00 PM, Monday, April 19, 2010 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Call to Order – Roll Call: Present at roll call were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Commission: Chair Sharon Dennis, Vice-Chair Fred Bedell, Commissioners Don Doty, Richard Taylor, and Youth Commissioner Amy Sanders. Commissioner Paul Kolwaite was excused. Commissioner Natalie Varela arrived at 5:03 p.m. Staff members present were Director Mark Mayer, Recreation Supervisor Bryan Hughes, and Susan Gill, Executive Assistant.

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No one answered the *Call to the Public*.

AGENDA ITEM #2: 2010/2011 TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Julie Ghatti gave a brief Power Point presentation on the fiscal year 2010-11 budget process that included budget impacts; where the money comes from, and where the money goes. An overview of the Town's finances; sources of revenues, General Fund revenues, General Fund expenditures, and secondary property taxes in Fountain Hills was also reviewed. Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Ghatti explained that the Town faces a challenge to continue to provide services with reduced revenues and with proposed service level reductions. The next step in the budget process will be that Council receives a draft of the proposed 2010/2011 budget for their review, and a public *Open House* will be held on May 4, 2010 for residents to review the planned budget. Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Ghatti mentioned that the proposed budget would be posted on the Town's website by the end of the week.

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation.

AGENDA ITEM #3: 2010/2011 PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET PREPARATION/STATUS

Director Mayer advised the Commissioners that Councilperson Hansen had inquired at a recent Council meeting if budget information was being discussed with the various Commissions. Director Mayer explained that department staff has met at least three (3) times to review and make additional budget reductions to the present 2009/2010 budget as revenues have declined, and staff has continued to make additional budget reductions, as anticipated projected revenues decline, for fiscal year 2010/2011.

Director Mayer explained that as a consequence of the additional budget and part-time staff reductions the level of service will decline in our parks next fiscal year. A reduction in park maintenance will include reduced overseeding at the parks and a reduction in mowing and tree trimming. Staff at Golden Eagle Park and Four Peaks Park have already assumed the responsibilities of mowing the turf at their parks. Youth Baseball and Soccer leagues have been advised that due to staff reductions we will no longer have someone assigned to Golden Eagle Park for their league season. Volunteers from the leagues have agreed to drag and line the fields themselves. Some smaller projects such as painting will not be done next fiscal year.

A brief discussion followed regarding reduced fountain run times, increasing rental fees, and whether or not the Town can lobby in favor of a tax initiative. Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Ghatti advised that the Town is prohibited by law to lobby. Commissioner Varela concurred that the school district is governed by the same guidelines.

Director Mayer advised the Commission that the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce has assumed financial responsibility for the St. Patrick's Day festivities in addition to the two (2) fairs they hold each year. Director Mayer concluded by advising the Commission that he would keep them informed of the budget process via e-mail as developments warrant.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Chair Dennis called for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Bedell made the motion, Commissioner Varela seconded; motion carried 6:0 to adjourn at 5:40 pm.

Next meeting: May 10, 2010 – Joint Meeting with Town Council at 5:30 PM
Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Commission

By: _____
Sharon Dennis, Chair

Reviewed by: _____
Mark C. Mayer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: _____
Susan Gill, Executive Assistant

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Special Budget Meeting held on April 19, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Susan Gill, Executive Assistant